



wisconsin department of
children & families

201 East Washington Avenue, Room G200

P.O. Box 8916

Madison, WI 53708-8916

Governor Scott Walker
Secretary Eloise Anderson

Secretary's Office

For Immediate Release

Friday, October 7, 2011

Contact: Sara Buschman, 608.266.9000

DCF Partners With Milwaukee County on Pathways to Responsible Fatherhood Project

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has awarded a grant of more than \$5 million for the Milwaukee County Pathways to Responsible Fatherhood Project, a new program that will provide a community-centered response to address issues that pose a barrier to responsible fatherhood.

As a key project partner in the grant, the Department of Children and Families (DCF), through the Bureau of Milwaukee Child Welfare (BMCW), will serve as an outreach and recruitment hub for the project. The goal of the collaboration will be to engage with noncustodial fathers to locate and enroll the father into program services to support them in improving their parenting skills as well as assistance in seeking employment opportunities.

As the state funder of TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families), Transitional Jobs, and Child Welfare Services, DCF will support the project by integrating these services with a local network of providers. Specifically as it pertains to child welfare, DCF will provide training on a child maltreatment protocol, to include screening techniques and mandatory reporting requirements. DCF will provide these services at no charge to the grant.

"DCF is committed to enriching the lives of Wisconsin families by protecting our children's health and well-being and giving their parents the tools to obtain family-supporting jobs," said Department of Children and Families Secretary Eloise Anderson. "This collaboration is a great opportunity for the state to partner with local stakeholders to create a program that helps fathers become engaged in the lives of their children by connecting them with the resources and support they need to take care of their families."

###